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C² w/af

aspherical surface on a lens surface closest to the object side.---

REMARKS

This is a divisional application of Application No. 09/248,979 filed February 12, 1999 (the "'979 Application").

Claims 1 through 19 are pending, with Claims 1 and 13 being independent. Claims 13 through 19 have been added.

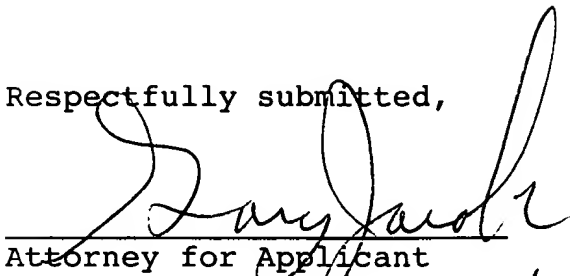
The specification has been amended to include changes made in the '979 Application.

Applicant claims under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based upon Japanese Priority Application Nos. 10-054434 filed February 19, 1998, and 11-011288 filed January 20, 1999, and respectfully request acknowledgment of this claim and of receipt of the certified copies of the priority documents, which were filed May 26, 2000, in the '979 Application.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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